

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 9 June 2009 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9, 12, 14-16, 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Patent Number US 6,712,688 B2 by McGinty et al ("McGinty") in view of Patent Number 4,836,825 by Smeets et al ("Smeets") in view of Patent Number 5,499,944 by Weston et al ("Weston"). McGinty discloses a coin storing device containing selector 4 for distinguishing the value of introduced coins, at least one reserve 19 for recycling certain coins, including several mobile locations 41, each location being capable of receiving only one coin of any value (see column 4, lines 37-

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39), bowl for giving back the coins (i.e., “change receptacle” – see column 3, line 66 through column 4, line 1) and safe (i.e., “cash box” – see column 4, lines 18-21).

The coin storing device of McGinty operates such that first and second introduced coins having first and second different values, respectively, are received via input chute 3 and identified via validator 4 (see column 3, lines 34-40). Said device gives back change by transferring one or more coins to the bowl (see column 3, line 62 through column 4, line 1 and column 5, lines 57-63) and stores a coin in the safe instead of the reserve if the reserve is full (see column 4, lines 18-21).

Furthermore, if conditions relating to the value of said first introduced coin and to the predetermined maximum number of coins which have the same value as said coin that are present in the reserve are satisfied, said device collects said first introduced coin into the reserve at any one of said several locations. Furthermore, if conditions relating to the value of the second introduced coin, and to the different predetermined maximum number of coins which have the same value of said coin that are present in the reserve are satisfied, said device collects said coin into the same location into which said first coin was previously stored (see column 4, lines 36-53 and column 8, line 62 through column 9, line 6).

Still further, said device calculates, at a predetermined time interval, the maximum number of coins of each value able to be stored in the reserve (see column 8, lines 47-60) and stores the location and value of the coins in a memory (see column 7, lines 40-44).

McGinty fails to disclose a pre-receptacle. Smeets teaches a coin storing device containing pre-receptacle 5 for the purpose of temporarily storing identified coins prior to distribution to particular storage locations. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the pre-receptacle of Smeets into the coin storing device of McGinty for the purpose of temporarily storing identified coins prior to distribution to particular storage locations.

McGinty fails to disclose the step of directing a coin to said safe if the maximum number of coins of a certain predetermined value that are stored in the reserve is equal to the capacity of the reserve. Smeets teaches said coin storing device comprising reserve 6 that stores a predetermined number of coins having the same value and the act of storing an additional coin in safe 12 if the number of coins in the reserve having the same value is equal to a predetermined maximum number of coins that is equal to the capacity of the reserve (see Abstract lines 14-17; and column 6, lines 17-33) for the purpose of retaining excess coins within said device. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the reserve/safe configuration of Smeets into the device of McGinty for the purpose of retaining excess coins within said device.

McGinty fails to disclose the regulation of the number of coins in said reserve based upon the number of coins of various values stored in said reserve. Weston teaches a coin storage device comprising reserve 22/24/26 that contains coins of different values. The numbers of coins of particular values stored in said reserve are based upon the numbers of population levels of said coins of different values (see

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Figure 1 and column 2, lines 35-52) for the purpose of regulating the quantity of coins stored in said reserve. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the coin regulating configuration of Weston into the coin storage device of McGinty for the purpose of regulating the quantity of coins within said reserve.

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McGinty in view of Smeets in view of Weston as applied to claim 6 above, and further in view of Patent Number 5,997,396 by Itako ("Itako"). McGinty/Smeets/Weston fails to disclose the act of manually loading the reserve. Itako teaches a coin storage device that is maintained via the act of manually loading reserve 12 (see Abstract, lines 16-20) for the purpose of maintaining the storage device in a fully-charged state. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the manually loading act of Itako into the operation of McGinty/Smeets/Weston for the purpose of maintaining the storage device in a fully-charged state.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9, 11, 12, 14-16, 18 and 19 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MARK J. BEAUCHAINE whose telephone number is (571)272-6934. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00AM through 5:00PM Mondays through Thursdays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick H. Mackey can be reached on (571)272-6916. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Patrick H. Mackey/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 3653

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